

*The God of Action Says,
"I Will..."*

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh" (Acts 2:17).

There is close to seven thousand promises in the Bible. As we read from Genesis (the beginning) to Revelation (the end) we see the story of a God who graciously showers gifts upon His people. This story comes to life when we say, "God, You said it! You moved upon men to write it! I believe it!"

When we say we believe, we mean "we have faith in; a mental persuasion of; and confidence in." We must learn to believe, claim, walk in, and stand upon the promises of God.

Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

When God says "I will," He is giving His guarantee. It is His pledge to act. The word "promise" appears fifty-two times in the New Testament. Never is it linked with negotiation on the part of man.

Promises are free and unmerited if we will do three things:

1. Comply with the conditions laid down.
2. Pray the promises into our lives.
3. By faith, claim the promises and believe them.

2 Peter 3:9 tells us, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise." In Romans 4:21 we

read, "And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

The God of Action proclaims, "I will!"

Matthew 16:18

"Upon this rock, I will build my church!" As an after statement to Peter revealing who He was, Jesus announced His purpose of coming to earth. He came to build His church and He continues the work.

Matthew 16:19

"And I will give unto thee the keys to the kingdom."

Once He proclaimed His purpose and vision statement for His journey into the homes and hearts of fallen mankind, Christ tells Peter He has given him the Kingdom keys. He gave Peter the keys to the church He was about to build.

Acts 2:15-17

Standing in the midst of a bewildered crowd of Jews, Peter stood boldly to address them. Their question was "What meaneth this?" (Acts 2:12).

In response Peter assured them, "These are not drunken, as ye suppose... But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."

Joel had long before prophesied that there would be a great outpouring of the Spirit of God.

Promises of God

Here Peter used the keys to unlock the stony hearts of the Jews gathered on the Day of Pentecost and to open wide the door of salvation for them.

Acts 2:18

He again repeats, "...I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

Acts 2:19

"And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath..."

Summary

- Jesus said, "I will" build my church!
- Jesus said, "I will" give you the keys to that church.
- Jesus said, "I will" pour out my Spirit in that church.
- Jesus said, "I will" show signs, wonders, and miracles in that church.
- Jesus said, "I will" come back for that church (John 14:3).
- Jesus said, "I will" give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

Study Questions

1. How many promises are in the Word of God?

2. What does "believe" mean? _____

3. How many times does the word "promise" appear in the New Testament? _____

4. What three things must we do to receive the promises of God? _____

5. What was the purpose of Jesus coming to the earth? _____

6. What did Jesus give to Peter and when did he use them? _____

7. What was Peter's answer to the question, "What meaneth this?" _____

8. What had Joel prophesied? _____

9. Where is this prophecy located in the Old Testament? _____

10. What are the six times that Jesus said, "I Will" as recorded in this lesson?

